

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested after consideration of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Currently, claims 1-11 and 21-36 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1 and 21.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,491,980 to Müller, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,989,660 to Moriwaki, et al. As now amended, however, the claims are believed to patentably define over either reference taken alone or in combination.

For instance, claims 1 and 21 are directed to a vehicle air bag that includes a fabric substrate and a residue formed on the fabric substrate. Both claims require that the residue be formed from an aqueous solution comprising a water-based finish. As now amended, the water-based finish comprises an aliphatic urethane formulation, a flame retardant, or a halogenated polymer, wherein the polymer that is halogenated comprises an acrylic polymer, an acrylic copolymer, a polyurethane, or a polyvinyl acetate.

In stark contrast, the primary reference relied on in the Office Action, Müller et al., teaches coating an air bag fabric with an aqueous emulsion containing an organopolysiloxane. In fact, the entire essence of Müller et al. is to coat a fabric with an organopolysiloxane mixture. In the latest Office Action, it was pointed out that Müller et al. teaches the use of halogenated radicals contained in the diorganopolysiloxanes. In comparison to the currently pending claims, however, Müller et al. does not disclose, suggest or teach a halogenated polymer in which the polymer that is halogenated comprises an acrylic polymer, an acrylic copolymer, a polyurethane or a polyvinyl acetate. Thus, Applicants submit that the claims patentably define over Müller et al. either alone or in combination with Moriwaki, et al.

Further, Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to somehow modify Müller et al. by replacing the aqueous emulsion described in Müller et al. with the aqueous solution as now claimed in claims 1 and 21. For instance, as stated above, the

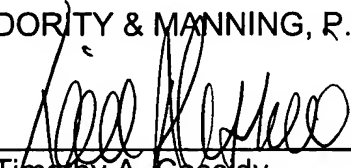
entire essence of Müller et al. is directed to the use of diorganopolysiloxanes which contain SiC-bonded aliphatically unsaturated groups in the terminal units which, according to Müller et al., provide various benefits and advantages over prior art compositions.

In summary, Applicant submits that the claims as now amended are in complete condition for allowance. Favorable action is therefore respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment, however, then Examiner Singh is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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